



VOLMOED YOUTH
LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
— TRAINING PROGRAMME —

10 Year REPORT

2016 – 2026

A DECADE OF EQUIPPING
YOUNG LEADERS.
A FUTURE OF HOPE.



CONFERENCE THEME

“*I Call you friends*”

(JOHN 15)



SUB-THEME

**FROM FEAR TO
COURAGEOUS COMMUNITY**



COURAGE
IN CHRIST



LEADERSHIP
FOR IMPACT



FRIENDSHIP
THAT TRANSFORMS



COMMUNITY
THAT RESTORES

This report is dedicated to the memory of
Archbishop-emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu ...



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Timeline snippets: 2016 – 2026

2016	Cohort 1 is launched on June 16, 2016 (this includes internationals such as Mona from Palestine, Gerlyn from Canada and Sam from the USA) Archbishop and Mama Leah Tutu move to Hermanus Young Tutu Fellows from Indianapolis visit South Africa
2017	David and Thabo are sent to Taize for 3 months Cohort 2 meets from May 2017: includes Richard from eSwatini Seth and Edwin lead South African Tutu Fellows to Indianapolis
2018	Amanda goes to Taize Cohort 3 meets from May 2018 (Rev Wilma Jakobsen joins for 3 weeks)
2019	Ntombekhaya goes to Taize Cohort 4 meets from May 2019 (includes Mona from Kenya) Taize Pilgrimage of Trust happens in Cape Town
2020	Covid 19 stops the next cohort from meeting VYLTP goes online with Contextual Bible Study and Beloved Community programmes
2021	VYLTP continues online Dec 26, 2021: Archbishop Tutu passes away
2022	VYLTP office opens at Volmoed Oct: Start of our drumming programme, with Bevil Spence
2023	Tutu mural is painted in Hermanus (Pear tree restaurant) March: Start of our Thursday programmes at Volmoed May: Start of our drum-making programme First audited financial statements are received November: First visit to UCT Graduate school of business
2024	March 21: 42 km pilgrimage from Simonstown to Cape Town for peace in Gaza Lutho goes to Taize September: Silent Auction at Volmoed November: Volmoed Youth drummers travel to USA after meeting with Archbishop Rowan Williams
2025	Inathi goes to Taize for 8 months, followed by Cleo for 1 month and Masixole for 3 months Visit to George Diocese and National Arts Festival in Makhanda
2026	Holy Saturday: 42 km pilgrimage from Simonstown to Cape Town for peace in Gaza 10 th Anniversary conference held at St Peter’s Church, Hermanus June 16 celebrations and 10 th birthday held at Volmoed “Transgenerational wellness” research starts with Avreq at Stellenbosch University

Our vision:

A vibrant, ecumenical movement of courageous young leaders that ignites and facilitates transformative justice in our countries, for our planet.

Our mission:

We gather young leaders to form a safe space of learning to foster wise leadership that empowers them to facilitate transformative justice in church and society.

Foreword from the VYLTP Founder:

Dear Friends

Thanks be to God for carrying and accompanying the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training programme (VYLTP) for the last ten years. This 10th anniversary celebration takes place within the context of the 40th Anniversary of VOLMOED.

After initially conceptualizing the VYLTP (together with John de Gruchy) as a 10-week residential theological reflection and leadership training programme at Volmoed from 2016 onwards to empower young Christian leaders from across the globe, and then 6 years later pivoting to become a year-long almost daily programme with local young people, this youth leadership training programme near the Southern tip of Africa has stood the test of time, at least for ten years now.

What was the need we were trying to address then? In the lead-up to 2016 and thinking of how to commemorate the 40th anniversary of June 16, 1976 in Soweto, we saw how young people in South Africa were once again being marginalized and constantly re-traumatized by both the Church and society. Our intervention to start this programme was seen as not only urgent, but critical because of the extreme disempowerment of our young adults. We decided to start this programme, even though not everything was in place.

From 2016 – 2019, we hosted close to 100 young people from across Africa and the rest of the globe, and since COVID19, we decided to focus mainly on the local young people closest to Volmoed. One of the highlights of this period was the Taize gathering in Cape Town of almost 3000 young people, something which we supported and encouraged.

Together with wonderful partners, both local and global, this very locally focused programme has now gained global attention. We were privileged that Wilma Jakobsen joined us after a few years, bringing her many gifts and insights, thereby helping us to open an office on Volmoed and helping to determine the direction that this programme would eventually take. One of our alumnae, Siyabonga Vonco would also bring his skills and local knowledge and begin to manage the day-to-day programme. The rest of the leadership team consisting of Rene August, Thobeka Dodo, David Daniels, Sam White, Mona Okello and Seth Naicker gave clear direction, guidance and support over these ten years.

There is great value in clarity: we said our focus is on 18 – 35-year-olds who need a hand to hold them, to love them, to comfort them, to empower them. This programme will be their safe space, their brave space and from time to time, their safety net. We will of course also

challenge them and stretch them so that they may grow into maturity and challenge the many systems that hold them back.

Young people who would never have thought of meeting top theologians and others from across the globe or even think that they would be able to travel nationally or internationally, could now do that and be proud of what they were doing. Some of the visitors we hosted, after meeting the young people, would say: “That was the highlight of my visit to South Africa”.

This programme changes the way the young adults experience the world and the moment they are living through. While their social context may not change or often only change for the worse, at the very least they begin to understand why things are happening and how to begin to navigate this context after building up some confidence in community. We develop and provide them with various frameworks to navigate life. When they visit the place called “Volmoed” on a Thursday, they experience beauty and a broader community and can breathe again. Volmoed has been described by some as a “thin place”, a place where God’s presence is especially tangible. It is a Mount of Transfiguration for some.

40 years ago, in 1986 (when Apartheid still reigned and I and many others were detained by the apartheid regime) Volmoed was conceptualized as a place of healing and reconciliation. It was also the year that Bishop Desmond Tutu became Archbishop Desmond Tutu. For many years, he was the patron of Volmoed and our initial cohorts had the privilege of meeting him and Mama Leah Tutu at Volmoed on a Thursday morning, when they attended the Eucharist here. It was he who said to a group of young people: “**Make life beautiful.... especially for the poor**”. Even though he is no longer physically with us, we hold him in our hearts and still take his guidance seriously. We know that he is interceding for us. We dedicate this report to him.

Today, we are privileged to have new patrons: Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela and Lionel Louw, two giants in their own right. Pumla has involved this youth programme in a research project that aims to develop a framework towards transferring generational wellness to the next generation, rather than generational trauma. We are doing this with young people in Stellenbosch, Ghana and Tanzania. Once this study is completed, it will help guide us in how we continue this youth programme.

I now begin to think of 2036, 10 years from now. Where will this youth programme be? Will young adults still be traumatized and re-traumatized by the church and society and by “township education”? I hope not, but this is something we have to continue working on. Will the Gaza Genocide and the war against Iran and Lebanon have re-shaped humanity for the

better? Will the warmongers have been silenced and the peacemakers have the upper hand? I hope so.

This is what I see and hope for: I see a greater integration and a more empowered Africa, an Africa shaped by the principles of ubuntu and unity. Will novels by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and other African writers be prescribed readings at school then? I hope so. Will the true history of the Congo – the genocide of at least 10 million people by Belgium – be acknowledged and be in the history curriculum by then? I hope so. Will African young people travel the continent more by then? I hope so. Will Christians, Jews and Muslims make peace with each other and become friends? I hope so. Will women and the LGBTIQ+ community be accepted as equals by then? I hope so. Will Haiti be a place we as Africans can be proud of? I hope so.

Steve Bantu Biko said that: “... We shall bestow on South Africa the greatest possible gift.... a more human face”. May his words become true, and may we reflect theologically on this as we make it come true.

This is my wish for Volmoed Youth as we enter the next ten years: that a new Africa will be born, starting with us, and that we will be midwives and nurturers of that new Africa, building friendships across the continent. Our sustainability will be dependent on the extent to which we build systems and partnerships that serve both the poorest and the Christ in our midst.

Jesus said: “I call you friends”. May we become friends of the Jesus who came to set the captives free and bring good news to the poor. Only then will we begin to enter the kingdom he promised us.

Blessings to all who will be part of and who will encounter this evergreen Volmoed Youth Leadership Training programme.

Peace and love.

Rev Edwin Arrison

Founder and Director of VYLTP



Happy tenth birthday, VYLTP! Congratulations on reaching this milestone.

Volmoed means "full of hope and courage" - characteristics that the visionary team who built this programme have shown over the past decade. In the intervening years, the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Programme has been a key expression of the Volmoed Trust's ministry of healing, reconciliation and justice, and has touched many lives. We are deeply grateful - and proud - to have walked this journey with you.

We hope your celebrations will be inspiring and invigorating, and that the years ahead will see your work grow, mature, and flourish even more.

Our love and prayers surround and uphold you both now, and in the years to come.

Theresa Edlmann on behalf of the Volmoed Trust and community



Theresa Edlmann

MANAGING TRUSTEE

THE VOLMOED TRUST

(+27) 028 312 1282

(+27) 083 613 7465

Email: theresa@volmoed.org

www.volmoed.co.za

VYLTP 10th Anniversary programme: 12 – 16 June 2026

Overall theme: “I call you friends”

Subtheme: From fear to courageous community

<p>Friday 12 June</p>	<p>From 3 – 5pm: Registration and meeting of host family (if possible) 5 – 5h45 pm: Evening prayer in the church 6 – 6h45pm: Dinner 7pm – 8.30pm: Opening Ceremony consisting of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drumming • Video • Director’s and others’ welcome and opening remarks • Notices 	<p>At St Peter’s church Hall, Hermanus</p>
<p>Saturday 13 June</p>	<p>Focus of the day: The past</p> <p>9h00: Morning prayer in the hall</p> <p>Rene August and team leads a day of reflection of the history of Christian youth movements of the past and draw lessons from those.</p> <p>11h00: Tea</p> <p>1pm: Lunch</p> <p>5pm: Evening prayer/worship 6pm: Dinner 7pm: Depart to the host families and Volmoed</p>	<p>St Peter’s church and church hall</p>
<p>Sunday 14 June</p>	<p>Focus of the day: The Present</p>	<p>Different churches</p>

	<p>Morning: Delegates are divided into groups of ten/twenty and visit different local churches (Hawston, Mount Pleasant, Zwelihle, Central Hermanus)</p> <p>Every group is given a written message to be read out at the congregation where they are visiting.</p> <p>12h30 Lunch with congregations or families (or at St Peter's)</p> <p>4h30pm: Joint service at St Peter's church</p> <p>From 6pm: Dinner for delegates and host families only</p>	St Peter's Church
Monday 15 June	<p>Focus of the day: The future</p> <p>9h00: Morning Prayer</p> <p>Seth and team facilitates a day around the 5 themes of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation and Creativity 2. Healing and wholeness 3. Peace and Justice 4. Beloved Community 5. Reconciliation <p>11h00: Teatime</p> <p>1pm: Lunch</p> <p>Each "stream" comes up with a proposed plan for the next 5 to ten years ...</p> <p>Plan is consolidated and presented by 6pm</p> <p>From 6pm: Dinner (Evening braai)</p>	St Peter's church hall
16 June	<p>10h00 to 15h00:</p> <p>Focus of the day: Celebration and re-commitment</p>	Volmoed

	<p>10th Anniversary celebration of the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training programme and a re-commitment to the next ten years</p> <p>From 9h30: Drumming and eats</p> <p>10h00: Welcome and prayer John de Gruchy speaks Video and cutting of Cake The young people speak</p> <p>12pm: Dr Allan Boesak speaks</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Re-dedication from 1 pm</p> <p>Lunch at 2pm</p> <p>Day ends at 3pm</p>	
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VYLTP 10th Anniversary Conference Opening Worship Service

Taizé Evening Prayers

12 June 2026, 17h00

TAIZÉ: This is a small village in France, where Br Roger Schutz founded the Taizé community of brothers, who come from all Christian denominations. Their focus is on reconciliation in Christ and God's boundless love - building peace through reconciliation between Christians, and healing divisions to overcome conflicts within the human family.

PREFERENCE FOR YOUTH: Since 1974, hundreds of thousands of young people have visited Taizé in great numbers from all over the world. Some of our young people have spent three months there as volunteers. They focus on 18 - 35-year-olds because they believe in the transformation of young people, who seek meaning for their lives at the wellspring of faith.

PRAYER AND PRACTICES: The brothers live out a rule of great simplicity and common prayers three times a day, with beautiful songs and music, extended silence, and Scripture in many languages.

TAIZÉ SONGS: Songs are sung a number of times so that they become a prayer from our hearts and from our deepest selves. The psalms and prayers have a sung response after each verse or prayer. There is a longer silence after the reading, to allow us to reflect on a word or phrase from one of the songs or the reading, and to be still and silent, to listen to God and to ourselves.

VYLTP RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIZE (see <https://volmoedyouth.org.za/vyltp-and-taize/>)

Since 2017, VYLTP has sent at least two young people to Taize in France for periods of 3 months. This was a continuation of a ministry by Rev's Wilma Jakobsen and Edwin Arrison since the late 1990s. In 2025, Inathi Paliso also went to volunteer at Taize for a period of 8 months. VYLTP also supported the Taize pilgrimage of Trust held in Cape Town in 2019, where about 3000 young people gathered. We now dream of the 50th anniversary in 2030 of the 1980 Pilgrimage of Trust to Taize, when Bishop Tutu organized 144 young South Africans to travel to Taize, Jerusalem, Rome and Geneva.

Sing before the service:

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name, bless the Lord my soul, who leads us into life.

Wamkelekile! Welcome! Welkom!

1. In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice
Look to God, do not be afraid, lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Enkosini ndiyaku bulela, enkosini ndovuya,
Bhekani kuThixo uMdali,
Musani ukoyika, musani ukoyika

2. O-o-o, Dumisani Nkosi, O-o-o, Dumisani Nkosi, O-o-o, Dumisani Nkosi, Dumisan' Nkosi!
O-o-o, kom ons sing aan die Heer, O-o-o, ... kom ons sing aan die Heer!
O-o-o, let us sing to the Lord, O-o-o, let us sing to the Lord, ... Let us sing to the Lord!

From Psalm 103 (At the beginning, end, and between each paragraph, we sing Alleluia!)

Sing: Alleluia! ...

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless God's holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all God's blessings. ***Sing: Alleluia! ...***
Dit is God wat al my sonde vergewe wat al my siekte genees, wat my red van die graf.

Sing: Alleluia! ...

Uloxolela bonke ubugwenxa bakho; Ulophilisa zonke izifo zakho;
Ulokhulula ubomi bakho esihogweni, Akuthi jize ngenceba nemfesane; ***Sing: Alleluia! ...***
It is God who crowns you with love and compassion, who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's

Sing: Alleluia! ...

Die Here laat geregtigheid en reg geskied aan almal wat verdruk word.

Sing: Alleluia! ...

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Sing: Alleluia! ...

Scripture reading: UYohane / John / Johannes 15: 11-15

Jesus said, ¹¹“I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.”

Song: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart

Wag vir die Heer, sy dag kom gou, wag vir die Heer, bly waak en bid.

Silence (about 5 minutes)

Prayers: Sing after each prayer: **Nkosi senzele inceba** (Lord have mercy)

For all of us gathered here, for young people in South Africa during Youth Month, and for our conference this week; **Nkosi senzele inceba**

That we may be delivered from all anxiety and fear; **Nkosi senzele inceba**
That we may learn to share more fairly the resources of our planet among all; **Nkosi senzele inceba**

For all the nations of the earth, that wars and violence may cease; **Nkosi senzele inceba**
For those who work with the poor, and with foreigners and migrants; **Nkosi senzele inceba**
For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and those who care for them; **Nkosi senzele inceba**

That a sense of wonder at the beauty of creation may remain alive in us; **Nkosi senzele inceba**
That we may find light and courage in the mystery of community and communion that is the Church; **Nkosi senzele inceba**

Your own prayers are invited in silence; Nkosi senzela

The Lord’s Prayer in the language of your choice

Sing: Siyakuthanda, moya oyingcwele (x3) (*We love you, Holy Spirit*) *

Give to us your peace, Lord Jesus Christ;

Gee aan ons u vrede, Jesus Christus;

Siphe uxolo, Yesu Krestu

Concluding Prayer: Loving God, help us to entrust all of our life to you. Bless us as we meet in conference and guide all our discussions and decisions. May your loving will for us be accomplished. Fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you , so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and become channels of your peace in the world.

Song: Sing praises all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord,...

Sifuni watu wote, sifuni Myenzeni, ... *(Swahili)*

Final chorus as we go to dinner: Avulekile Masango!

Shaping Beloved Community



VOLMOED YOUTH
LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME



Written by Rev Seth Naicker: In 2015, after serving at the 30th anniversary commemoration of the Kairos Document, I was invited by Rev. Edwin Arrison to visit Volmoed—a place located a few kilometers up the road from Hermanus in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. It is a glorious part of our country, boasting a remarkable diversity of fauna and flora not to be found anywhere else in the world.

Yet, more than the beauty of the land or the coastal splendor of the Overberg, Edwin was calling me into a journey of work, witness, and service that would become the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Programme (VYLTP).

The programme has undergone several transitions over the last ten years. In 2016, the youth leadership training initiative was launched with a local-to-global vision and reach. Over the years, I have been honored to design, facilitate, and guide participants through a personal, professional, and community leadership learning journey called Beloved Community.



We have witnessed the programme transition from a nine-week residential experience to an online pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic, and now into what is better understood as a year-long journey. It is a space for sharing, learning, and caring, where participants are

mentored and coached through positive, faith-inspired values to overcome obstacles, break through barriers, and boldly pursue their goals, hopes, and dreams.

The programme is anchored in prayer, silence, contextual Bible study, and songs of hope, healing, and justice.

I have often enjoyed hearing Edwin suggest—to paraphrase—that we should move with “some Jesus, Justice, and Jazz,” to which I would add, “and some Beloved Community.”

Thus, one could joyfully proclaim:

Halala VYLTP, Halala!

Moving with Jesus, Justice, Jazz, and Beloved Community — Halala!

(Drop the mic!)





Moving as Beloved Community

Moving with and as a beloved community, there has been a leadership team that provides accountability, support, encouragement, and guidance.

In addition to the elders who founded the work alongside Edwin—Bishop Desmond Tutu and Professor John de Gruchy—it has been an honor to work with René August, Thobeka Dodo, Wilma Terry Jacobsen, David William Daniels, Siyabonga Vonco, Mona Nerea Okello, and Sam White.

This team represents founders, pioneers, facilitators, and participants. We come from a rich diversity of ecumenical faith traditions, leadership styles, professions, and vocations. We draw from black feminist, justice, reconciliation, missional, liberation, and Kairos theologies, alongside varied spiritual practices, music traditions, approaches to contextual Bible study, and critically reflective engagement with sacred texts.

Yet, within this mosaic of difference, we remain united in our commitment to youth, young people, and emerging leaders.

While we have seen ten cohorts of VYLTP over ten years, there is also an eleventh cohort: the leadership team itself. We too have been blessed, challenged, stretched, and strengthened in becoming values-based servant leaders. A practicing beloved community has become the sounding board for building beloved community youth leadership cohorts, year after year.





Moving with Jesus

Moving in and with Jesus, we have witnessed a prayer movement fostered through Thursday chapel services at Volmoed and quarterly prayer gatherings that bring young people together in a Taizé-inspired rhythm of prayer, worship, word, silence, and reflection. It has been beautiful to witness prayer being embraced by young people as a way of life. The phrase, “prayer is the true heart’s home,” from a book I once read, often comes to mind. Throughout this journey—serving on the leadership team and facilitating the Beloved Community leadership learning experience—I have been encouraged by the Taizé way of prayer: silence, worship, work, witness, and service.

Prayer becomes a resolute grounding and a sounding board that carries us through the ups and downs of life. Our participants have been immersed in a spirituality and living faith anchored in prayer. Who said young people are walking away from faith? Well, perhaps it depends on whose faith, and what that faith is about. Within VYLTP, we have witnessed a reawakening among young people taking their journey and faith in Christ Jesus seriously—with care, sincerity, courage, and desire.



Moving for Justice

Moving with and standing for justice has brought about courageous explorations into the social evils and injustices that have been systemically designed, racialized, and socialized into the very fabric of our beloved South Africa. Participants are invited into critical reflection:

- Why are these social divides here?
- How did they come about?
- What is required of us now?

Taking time to reflect on our heritage, history, and the realities of apartheid has sparked fierce conversations and deeper commitments to ensuring that young people understand our past, become clear about our “here and now,” and grasp what is required of us to courageously pursue our hoped-for future.

Participants are immersed in visits to historic sites, engaged with leaders of note, and provoked to consider how they themselves will respond to the challenges within their personal, family, and community realities.

Through VYLTP, participants discover community, friendship, and enriched relationships. They become part of an extended family. I remember one young man hearing Edwin’s story of growing up on the Cape Flats—an area often shaped by a “hard-knock life”—and witnessing something shift within him. He sat up straighter. There was a rumbling in his mind, soul, and awareness. He awakened to the possibility that another future was possible.

Moving in solidarity for justice has been a bold expression of courageous faith—a faith that brings hope within contexts marked by poverty, racism, gender-based violence, and the ongoing joys and tensions of our imperfect democracy.



Moving with Jazz

Moving with Jazz, creative and innovative arts have become deeply intertwined with the programme. Participants have engaged in art classes using paint, canvas, and brushes as therapeutic practices to calm inner storms and bring forth images that testify to stories of joy, struggle, tragedy, healing, and hope. Along the way, the rhythmic splendor and soul-satisfying expression of drumming has become part and parcel of our work, witness, and service.

Participants join drum circles where mental health, healing, and whole-person well-being are explored in communities of rhythm and connection. A ministry of healing and hope is in motion, and our participants are afforded time, trustworthy people, experiences, and opportunities to process the pain, trauma, tragedies, and realities of our hard-knock-life contexts. Over the years, we have witnessed cherished journeys of healing and hope, for which we remain deeply humbled and grateful.

On my visits to connect with the leadership team and facilitate programmes, I have personally witnessed the entrepreneurship, ministry, and soul therapy emerging from this wellspring of creative arts, drumming, and the adaptive, augmenting, and awe-inspiring energy of Jazz.



Five Anchoring Themes

Five positive, values-based themes continue to contain, anchor, and mobilize the work, witness, and service of VYLTP:

- Creation and Creativity
- Healing and Wholeness
- Peace and Justice
- Beloved Community
- Reconciliation

We are grateful to draw from a heritage of faith and the testimony of leaders and elders who have stood courageously for the prophetic call echoed through the ages—to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. We are grateful for the legacy of the Kairos Document and Kairos theology, which continue to challenge us to see, judge, and act. We are grateful for a spirituality informed by prayer, silence, and song. We are grateful for the youth, young people, families, and communities who have journeyed with us over this last decade. We trust and believe in the people, resources, partnerships, access, and blessings needed to move forward. We trust and believe for a more equitable, just, peaceful, and hope-filled future.

I Thank God For...

- Edwin, who keeps us focused and calls us to “make things happen.”
- Wilma, who inspires through networking, resourcing, and retreating, and calls us to “get the details on paper.”
- René, who guides us to ask important questions and reminds us to “circle back.”
- Thobeka, who advocates for health and well-being and calls us to “take care of the caring.”
- David, who reminds us to prioritize young people and calls us to “remember the vision and mission.”
- Siyabonga, who keeps us grounded and reminds us to “remember the context.”
- Mona, who offers critical insight and calls us to “extend grace and compassion.”
- Sam, who speaks with prophetic wisdom and reminds us to “be mindful of God’s mercy and love that abounds.”

Halala VYLTP, Halala!

Moving with Jesus, Justice, Jazz, and Beloved Community.



Rev. Seth Naicker

sethnaicker@gmail.com

seth@heartlines.org.za

#ChurchOutOfTheBox #VYLTP #YouthLeadership #BelovedCommunity #Justice

#FaithInAction

#ValuesBasedLeadership



VOLMOED YOUTH
LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF UNITY, HEALING & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

VOLMOED YOUTH LEADERSHIP: A LEGACY OF YOUTH WORK & LASTING ACTION

For the past decade, the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Programme has brought young people together across communities to learn, heal, create, and lead.



JOIN US 12-16 JUNE

As we celebrate 10 years of courageous conversations, reconciliation, creativity, and community building in Hermanus.



CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Storytelling, discussions, drumming performances, church visits, shared meals, and a short documentary screening reflecting on our journey over the past decade and our vision for the future of youth leadership.



VYTLP WELCOMES

Young adults aged 18-35 from all backgrounds and faiths.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PROGRAMME?

Scan the QR code to sign up.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATIONS?

Supporters can contribute through donations, accommodation, transport assistance, publicity, or other forms of support.

Contact Rev. Edwin Amison at: edwin@volmoedyouth.org.za

OUR JOURNEY

2016 LAUNCH

The first cohort of 14 young leaders was officially launched.



2018 REFLECTION & GROWTH

Realizing the first 3 cohorts. Taking time to reflect, evaluate, and strengthen our foundations. Moving together toward our first 5 years.



2020 PANDEMIC CHALLENGE

VYTLP adopted through online learning and community engagement.



2022 DRUMMING

The Drumming partnership programme began, using drumming for trauma healing and community-building.



2023-2025 UCT

Presenting VYTLP work and research at the UCT Graduate School of Business.



2024 USA TOUR

USA Tour: "South Africa's Volmoed Youth Drummers for Unity and Healing."



SCAN QR CODE TO SUPPORT



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Supporters can contribute through donations, accommodation, transport assistance, publicity, or other forms of support.

Contact Rev. Edwin Amison at: edwin@volmoedyouth.org.za

OUR LEGACY & FUTURE

Rooted in local community engagement, VYTLP has grown from a local initiative into one with world-class reach.

This includes invitation-only drumming events, community outreach, and workshops focusing on drumming, leadership, and healing.

VYTLP encourages young adults aged 18-35 from diverse backgrounds to participate in programmes that inspire unity, healing, leadership, and social transformation.

Together, we are building a legacy of youth work and lasting action.

CELEBRATION FINALE 16 JUNE | 10:00 AM



RETREAT & CELEBRATION VENUE: VOLMOED TRUST

Escape to the peaceful beauty of Hermanus — at the Volmoed Trust. Set on 30 hectares of fynbos and mountain scenery, Volmoed offers comfortable self-catering accommodation for couples, families, and groups, sleeping from 2 to 12 guests.

Enjoy fully equipped cottages and houses, private braai facilities, and tranquil walking spaces. Relax in our rock pool, just 50m away — the perfect spot for family getaways, retreats, workshops, and group stays.



VOLMOED
REST • RENEW • BELONG

Thank you for being part of our journey.

HERE'S TO THE NEXT 10 YEARS!



www.volmoedyouth.org.za



edwin@volmoedyouth.org.za



Facebook: @VolmoedYouth

VYLTP FUNDRAISING STORY

One way we celebrate God's goodness during the first decade of the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Program (VYLTP), is by sharing the story of many people's generosity in financial and in-kind support. This story reflects the incredible commitment and hard work of the founders of VYLTP, the Volmoed Trust, the VYLTP leadership team, and a huge number of individuals, churches, and organisations in South Africa and around the world, who believe in the vision and mission of VYLTP.

In the time before Covid-19, VYLTP funded an annual ten-week residential program for twelve to sixteen participants based at Volmoed, as well as speakers, facilitators and organisers. The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) and Dr John de Gruchy, the Sower's Trust and Rev Trevor Pearce, the Anglican diocese of Oxford in the United Kingdom and Dr Graham Ward, were among those whose sustained funding meant that VYLTP continued its mission of developing young Christian leaders in South Africa and beyond.

In February 2020 Wilma Jakobsen returned from California to become the Chaplain at Volmoed and a Coordinator of VYLTP. However, Covid-19 changed everything. VYLTP's residential program could not continue, and the Volmoed Retreat Centre itself could not operate. But in 2019, a major donation and matching grant application had already begun through friends who worked for Apple in California. By a miracle of unplanned timing, due to unplanned delays, the donation was eventually made in 2020 during a brief window when a double match was offered. This meant that VYLTP received a large donation that was double matched, during Covid-19 when the residential program was suspended. This in turn meant that VYLTP received increased funds that could not be spent but were available once restrictions ended. So in 2022 and 2023, VYLTP became more locally focused and had the funds needed to add drumming and drum making to its leadership teaching tools and program. In subsequent years, this annual major donation and matching grant was continued. Drumming and drum making became an integral part of the program, and also became part of VYLTP fundraising and income generation.

Another unforeseen benefit of the Apple matching program was that Volmoed became a member of the Global Giving Foundation. This is a US non-profit that assists non-profit organisations worldwide to raise funds and increase capacity for fundraising. It holds regular campaigns throughout the year – to increase small donors, major donors, monthly donors and generally to help raise funds for special projects. The Global Giving platform helped VYLTP to continue and grow its online fundraising.

VYLTP donors are also local Volmoed and Hermanus regulars and visitors; they are older and younger; they are international visitors and friends; they are restaurant owners who support the program with regular lunches; they are people who donate online via many different platforms or via their own bank accounts. Regular articles in the local *Village News* in Hermanus and the new weekly Saturday morning WhatsApp update by the director Edwin Arrison, have helped to increase VYLTP's visibility, reach and regular donor communication and we have been blessed by increased donations, especially during the past year.

We say an enormous thank you to all our donors for your part in helping VYLTP to develop young Christian leaders who make a difference in their communities. As VYLTP celebrates this anniversary we also look forward to the next ten years and to seeing how God will continue to provide for this amazing organisation.

Rev Wilma Jakobsen (Volmoed Chaplain and VYLTP leadership team member)

Please see

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/volmoed-youth-leadership-training-program-vyltp/>

The next July Bonus day starts on July 16 10h00 EDT to July 17 10h00 EDT. During that period, donations of \$100 or more are eligible for a share of Global Giving's matching fund.

VYLTP Receipts and Payments for the years ended 28 February

	Estimate	Audited	Audited
	2026	2025	2024
RECEIPTS	1,089,411	673,515	735,934
Donations Received	957,596	609,036	646,474
Drum Circle and Facilitation Receipts		1,227	25,800
Interest Received	14,956	10,891	6,450
Other Income	4,500	0	5,000
Sales: Drumming Project	112,359	52,361	52,210
PAYMENTS	984,547	916,319	868,117
Accounting Fees	33,070	35,738	26,125
Audit Fees	9,430	9,496	17,781
Bad Debts			715
Bank Charges	8,869	6,335	4,327
Beloved Community		85,382	126,438
Computer Expenses		2,880	5,195
Contextual Bible Study			28,245
Electricity	1,125	1,275	3,924
General Expenses	2,559	2,191	3,460
Honorariums Paid	207,243	67,240	0
Insurance	2,024	2,367	3,012
Peace and Healing	3,860	55,317	0
Printing and Stationery	813	750	3,905
Relief for Youth Participants	2,080		
Retainers - Management	204,620	180,100	180,000
Salaries	143,098	144,633	140,246
Small Assets (Equipment)	14,417	4,905	4,680
Subscriptions - PAS		4,660	
Taize Day	59,669	33,046	40,123
Telephone and Internet	5,227	4,071	14,333
Thursdays Program	89,603	111,552	96,414
Training and Facilitation	12,450	10,442	24,494
Travel		25,322	
VYLTP Leadership	17,758	17,679	
Workshop Expenses	166,633	110,937	144,701
Shortfall/surplus for the year	104,864	-242,804	-132,183
Accumulated Funds at Beginning of Year	273,237	516,040	648,223

Accumulated Funds at End of Year	378,101	273,237	516,040
Monthly Average Expenditure	82,000	76,360	72,343

A THANK YOU NOTE TO OUR FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We do not only wish to say a general THANK YOU but wish to thank people who have supported us, without using their surnames. This conference would not have been possible without the support of our very faithful friends in the Netherlands (Rob and Erik) and Mary and Jeff (USA).

Over the years, we have been financially and otherwise supported by amazing individuals and groups:

The Sowers Trust, Graham, Ron and Jane , Joan and Doug , Viveka , Michael and Michael (we have many Michaels in our life!), Karim and Elizabeth, Paula and Niven, Hugh, Steven, Abby, Anna, Christy and Jack, Colin; Deon, Eliza, Jim, Mike, Wes and Lynn, Randy, Steven, Sandra, Mary (many different Mary's), Betsy, Anita, Tom, Beth, Dick, Ruth, Don and Linda (and other Linda's), John, Janet, Jean, Joe, Rebecca, Danny, Todd, Jay, Vicki, Chuck, K, Ed, James, Navita, Elaine, Jackie, Christy, David, Sharon, Sian, Amy, Tina, Susan, Patrick, Yvonne, Dee, Nigel, Barbara, Constance, Dain, Grace, Judith, George, Ahnee, Andrew, Beth, Courtney, Harvey (x2), Pat, Betsy, Pamela, Julia, Joan, Libby, Maria, Joe, Rob and Abi, Greg, Jorge, Danelie, Katherine, Sharon, Rebecca, Allison, Kyle, Aubrey, Marianne, John and Isobel, Pumla, Lionel, Ivan..... the list goes on.....

And many many other individuals in South Africa and across the globe. Special thanks to the Gift of the Givers

Several people supported our Silent Auction in 2024, and we thank them profusely.

Many many supported our trip to the USA. Special thanks to the Indiana Center for Middle East Peace who raised about R1 million (\$55 000) for that trip.

We especially thank our monthly donors, for their faithfulness in giving to this very important programme. The more regular monthly donors we can raise, the better.

Anna and Albert: Thank you for your support and hard work with the website.

Two restaurants in Hermanus have been particularly supportive, and we thank La Pentola (Shane and Janet) and The Rock Restaurant (Francois and Carol).

Thank you also to Prof Jess from UCT Graduate school of Business for inviting us for four years in a row and buying so many of our drums. You are our biggest buyer!

And thank you to our volunteer couples: Walter and Sarah; Gerna and Louis.

Here follows a description of the uGood Transgenerational wellness research project:

Scientific Importance: The vision of this project is to produce a double impact: exploring new avenues of inquiry on transgenerational repercussions of violent histories and fostering transgenerational wellbeing through the arts as an innovative strategy of repair (SDG 16).

Only recently have researchers and practitioners started to acknowledge the major significance of transgenerational trauma and transgenerational traumatic memory in this nexus and their impact for fostering transgenerational wellbeing. These perspectives point to important elements of conceptualizing transgenerational trauma; however, they neglect to articulate that the real effects of transgenerational collective trauma are not just inherited, inarticulable hauntings, but are also the actual and lived experiences of shattered hopes of a once imagined future.

The approach that we will develop in this project involves a reconsideration of the dimensions of time and memory. Commonly, memory and traumatic memory are understood as being connected primarily to the past. This one-dimensional understanding of time, memory and trauma, however, neglects the fact that we are in fact faced with a three-dimensional matrix here.

Collective traumatic memory thus must be viewed as a “triadic” concept that inextricably links the past, present and the future. The concept of triadic memory (Gobodo-Madikizela, 2023) differs from other theories of transgenerational trauma in that it explicitly includes reparative possibilities that emanate from it by naming what is repeated from the past and by articulating the matrix of forces that sustain the continuities of violent histories. Our project thus focuses on the long neglected transgenerational afterlife of violence that severely limits the wellbeing of young people across generations, offering a fresh approach that will engage creative and embodied transformative expressions. Societal Relevance

The project includes mentorships for talented MA students and has a strong programme for capacity building for emerging researchers at postdoctoral, Master’s and Doctoral level. At the heart of ensuring the scientific, societal, and policy impact of this proposal is the development of a free and open access multi-media platform. This media platform contains innovative video podcasts portraying best practice examples for the fostering of transgenerational wellbeing in the different contexts involved. For this aspect, we will partner with a media company in the production of video podcasts, documentaries and video essays.

Thematic Focus Alignment: The problem of transgenerational consequences of collective trauma in societies with a history of violent conflict is diametrically opposed to the advancement of relational wellbeing. Violence has a transgenerational “afterlife”, living on long after the traumatic events are over, and leaving its imprint on individuals, communities and institutions. The tragic and gloomy aspect of this is that young people endure the most of consequences of legacies of violence and thus are at greater risk of failures of their

wellbeing. This makes the younger generation an important focus for a project aimed at fostering transgenerational wellbeing. As an interdisciplinary research proposal, our aim is, firstly, to illuminate the impact of violent histories in the lived experience of young people who reside in marginalised communities.

Secondly, focusing on countries where young people grow up in the shadow of wars and mass violence, we aim to put the issue of repair (“healing”) in the centre of our inquiry. Working with civil society organisations involved in fostering wellbeing in three countries affected by violent pasts (South Africa, Tanzania, and Ghana), we will follow a comparative approach in our analysis of the transgenerational repercussions of violent histories and forge partnerships with artists to create free and easily accessible multi-media archives for innovative and best practices that have proven their effectiveness on the ground. Through strengthening partnerships with these networks and with civil society organisations, our project will enhance the nexus between young people’s capabilities and agency, fostering dialogue through the arts – using multi-media archives as a direct point of access for dialogue, social repair, and the promotion of wellbeing and social justice.

SOME SONGS AND CHORUSES:

<p>1. NgoMoya ka Thixo uMoya ka Bawo besenza inkonzo bevuya kunene (x2) *Kungoko* Kungoko kumiswe lemini yengcwele ndaweni yaleyo yamiswa kuqala (Through the Holy Spirit they are praising and worshipping God)</p>	<p>2. Ndikokhele Bawo Zundikhokhele ezintsizini zalomhlaba Bawo *Zalomhlaba bawo* Bawo Bawo Bawo Bawo ndiyabonga ngoba wena usandigcinile *Hlaluhele duze kwami* Bawo Bawo Bawo Bawo ndiyabonga ngoba wena usandigcinile</p> <p>(Lead me Lord in the trials and tribulations of this earth)</p>
<p>3. Avulekile Masango Hayi hayi hayi hayi hayi (5) Iyo ho amen!</p> <p>(All church and heavenly doors are open)</p>	<p>4. Nkosi nkosi sikelela Nkosi sikelela iAfrika maluphakanyinw'uphondo lwayo yizwa imithandazo yethu Nkosi sikelela (God bless Africa)</p>
<p>5. Ithemba lam, ndonyukanayo Ndingene endumisweni (This song is about hope)</p> <p>6. Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ, Our eyes are turned to the Lord God our Saviour. (Taize song)</p>	<p>7. Kulomzi lamaqaba 'qaba imbola Kulomzi kulomzi lamaqaba aqab'imbola x4 Lamaqaba aqab'imbola aqhatha amagqirha athi aqeqeshiw'ezingqondweni x3</p> <p>(In this house is the house of the indigenous and respectful cultural practices household, and they tell the doctor that they are mentally trained)</p>
<p>8. As hy kom op die waters van die hemel, elke oog sal hom sien, elke knie sal moet buig en elke tong sal moet bely (When he comes on the waters of the heavens, every eye shall see him)</p>	<p>9. If you believe and I believe And we together strive The Holy Spirit must go down And Africa will be saved.....</p> <p>And Africa will be saved (x3) The Holy Spirit must come down And Africa will be saved</p>
<p>10. Siyakuthanda Moyo oyingcwele</p>	<p>11. Die liefde van Jesus is wonderbaar Wonderbaar, prys sy naam</p>

<p>(We love you, Holy Spirit)</p>	<p>Die liefde van Jesus is wonderbaar Wonderbaar vir my. Kom ons verheerlik sy naam (x2) Die mense verander maar Jesus nooit Kom ons Verheerlik sy naam</p> <p>(The love of Jesus is wonderful)</p>
<p>12. It shall flow like a river It shall fall like the rain It shall rest on God's people Again and again And the knowledge of the Lord Shall fill every heart And the Spirit of the Lord, Shall come</p> <p>Whom shall I send and who will go? (x3) Dear Lord, Here am I, send me. X2</p>	<p>13. Touching Jesus is all that matters And your life, it will never be the same There is only one way to touch him Just believe when you call on his Name.</p> <p>14. Give to us your peace, O Jesus Christ Gee aan ons u vrede, Jesus Christus Siphe uxolo, Yesu Krestu (Taize song)</p>
<p>15. Magnificat, Magnificat Magnificat anima mea Domino (x2)</p> <p>(My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord)</p>	<p>16. UKrestu, Nkosi uYesu, UKrestu, Nkosi uYesu</p>
<p>17. Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart Wag op die Heer, sy dag kom gou, wag op die Heer, bly waak en bid.</p>	<p>18. You are my God, therefore I lack nothing; You are my God, I shall fear no evil.</p>
<p>19. Holy Spirit come to us, kindle in us the fire of your love, Holy Spirit come to us, holy Spirit, come to us. <i>Gees van God kom woon in ons, vuur in ons aan die gloed van u liefde, Kom oor ons O Gees van God, kom oor ons O gees van God.</i></p>	<p>20. The kindom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit Come Lord and open in us the gates of your kindom</p>

CONGREGATION/PARISH PLEDGE FORM FOR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

DATE:

We, the congregation/parish of

.....

Having listened to our young people,

We have become more aware of the many challenges faced by young adults: the trauma they have suffered and continue to suffer; the way they have been misunderstood and disregarded; the way they are being marginalized by systems within the Church and in society.

So many of our families are unfortunately not the model that Jesus calls them to be. Much of our society needs healing. In its current state, it leaves our young people without much hope.

We confess that we have not always been fully aware of and sensitive to this. We ask our loving God to forgive us and to empower us and the young people whom God has entrusted to us.

We are aware that nature abhors a gap, and that the gaps felt by our young people can easily be filled by negative forces. We will seek to continue to create safe and brave spaces for our young people. We will collaborate with as many others as possible, and especially with the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training programme (VYLTP).

We commit to direct whatever resources and capacities we can gather, to this important and critical ministry.

We now therefore pledge to support and minister to especially our young adults, and to empower and trust them in the same way that Jesus entrusted his ministry to those who were his disciples.

So help us God.

Signed by:

(Please email this completed and signed form to edwin@volmoedyouth.org.za)

Where to find us:

www.volmoedyouth.org.za

Farm 11, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley

PO Box
Hermanus, 7200
Western Cape
Republic of South Africa

edwin@volmoedyouth.org.za

Whatsapp only: 084 735 1835

How to fund us and invest in the young people:



OUR BANKING DETAILS

Name of account THE VOLMOED TRUST
Bank FIRST NATIONAL BANK
84 Main Road
Hermanus 7200
Western Cape
Hermanus branch 200412
Current Account 63011394789
Reference Your name
SWIFT code FIRNZAJJ